STAR® Training Overview

The Spray Technique Analysis and Research (STAR®) program is dedicated to improving the overall efficiency of manual spray coating operations by enhancing the techniques of spray technicians around the country. Benefits of the STAR® program, developed by the Iowa Waste Reduction Center (IWRC), include reduced material consumption and cost; reduced over spray and emissions; reduced health risks; and improved finish quality.

Our first STAR® trainees, Jorge Ortiz and Jim Knorr of Maaco San Diego, arrive at the San Diego Skills Center

Using a "train-the-trainer" approach, the IWRC has established a STAR® training network that now has a total of 34 instructors in 15 states working to improve the efficiency of manual spray coating operations. Ten of these states have training schools including Iowa, California, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Texas. In 2001 alone, 11 technical college instructors were trained and five additional community colleges were furnished with the necessary equipment to provide STAR® training.

Spray guns are filled in preparation for the pre-training data collection period at the San Diego Skills Center

During the “pre-training” data collection period, students are video taped while applying coatings as they would normally, without having been given any instruction on spray technique. Over spray, amount of paint used, VOC emissions and transfer efficiency (the amount of material hitting the target compared to the amount of material sprayed) are calculated to obtain pre-training data. Trainers then introduce STAR® techniques and demonstrate the use of new equipment, including the Laser Touch® targeting device. Students are provided individualized hands-on training and classroom training, with a typical

Students receive one-on-one classroom training in both English and Spanish at Los Angeles Trade Tech

teacher to student ratio of one to three.

Students are then given the opportunity to practice incorporating STAR® techniques into their spraying habits, and become familiar with the use of the Laser Touch®. After they are comfortable with use of the new techniques and equipment, “post-training” data is collected, gathered from coatings applied to parts identical to those sprayed by the students during the pre-training and practice periods. From the post-training data, VOC emissions and transfer efficiency are then calculated and compared to pre-training results.

The result of each trainee is entered into a database, and annual reduction in VOC emissions and increased savings are calculated. You can view aggregate STAR® trainee results by clicking here:

http://www.iwrc.org/staruserqueries/queries.cfm